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The SARC Communicator is published monthly for members of the Surrey Amateur Radio Club.

SARC maintains a website at [www.ve7sar.net](http://www.ve7sar.net) that includes club history, meetings, news and other information.



# Repeaters On The Move!

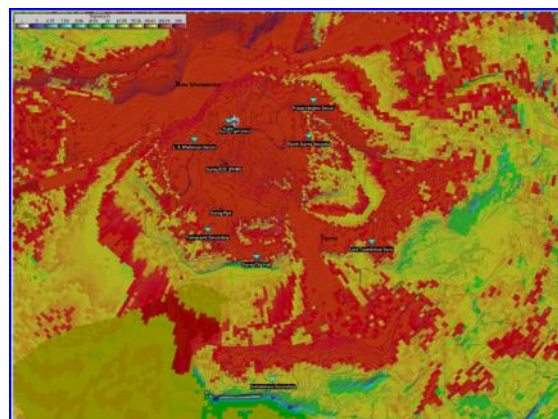
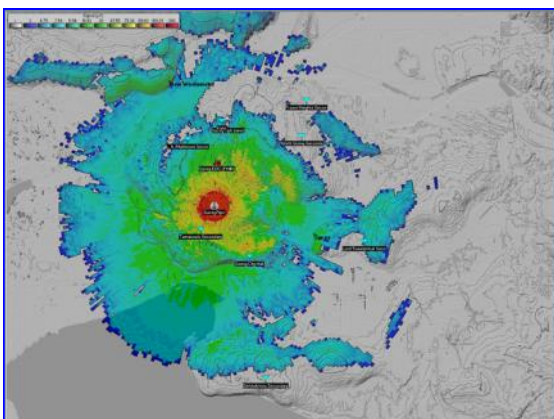
## Proposed SARC Site at Concord Pacific Tower

It looks like an exciting year coming up for SARC. On the agenda for the immediate months ahead are the purchase and installation of new radios and antennas at the proposed repeater site on Concord Pacific tower, the integration of our repeaters with SEPARS' 220 MHz capability for the EOC and Go Kits, and access to BC WARN.

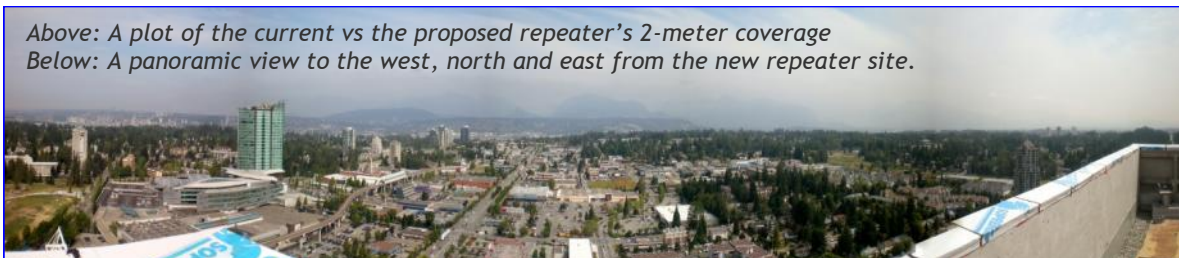
All these changes will dramatically enhance SARC's VHF and UHF coverage within Surrey and beyond and, through a microwave link to SFU and the BC WARN system, allow reliable access the Internet, telephone, D-Star, digital, voice and email services even if the public systems fail during an emergency. These developments are going to take much of our spare time and all our ingenuity, but fortunately we have the help of some willing and capable non-members to help with the tricky parts.

There has been much pre-planning and modeling, and the new location should provide not only an expanded footprint but significantly better coverage within Surrey. While the existing site has served us well, the proposed site at King George Boulevard near Fraser Highway is at significantly higher elevation thereby covering areas that proved difficult in the past.

Our relationship with the Surrey Emergency Program Amateur Radio Society (SEPARS) and the City of Surrey make this a tremendous partnership and an opportunity to add a reliable and robust link for emergency communications in the Metro Vancouver area.



Above: A plot of the current vs the proposed repeater's 2-meter coverage  
Below: A panoramic view to the west, north and east from the new repeater site.



## Meeting Minutes

Gord Kirk VE7GRK—SARC Secretary



# February 9, 2011 Meeting Minutes

Meeting Location: PREOC

Attendees: 27 members and guests in attendance.

### Welcome

Meeting opened at 7:10pm by John Brodie VA7XB. Introductions by all with a special welcome to 3 new members who will be taking the upcoming HAM class.

### Calendar

The calendar has been updated on website. It is current and updated regularly. Please see it for information on upcoming events.

### Upcoming Events

March - Talk on tower climbing safety by Dan Renaud

April - John White will talk on EZNEC antenna modeling software

May - Grab & Go kit display. Bring your own grab & go kit along.

June - AGM

### FOX Hunt/RDF event

May 14 RDF Fox Hunt with details still to come. Anton VE7SSD is the contact.

### Financial report

A financial report was presented.

### SEPARS Report

Fred VE7IO gave a report. Last week several members participated in a project with a Surrey Elementary School. On Feb 19 and 20 an ICS 200 course is scheduled with 15 seats available. There are currently 11 seats taken with a couple set aside for Surrey SAR. Only one or two spots are left for interested SEPARS members. ICS 100 is prerequisite. Speak to Kelvin Hall VA7KPH for more information. Upcoming exercise with Langley on Feb 26 is an EOC to EOC practice. Two shifts will happen; a 10:00-12:00 then shift change 12:00-14:00. This will allow practice of a shift change as well. SEPARS also has vests on order. They are installing 220mhz capability in the main radio room and all the grab & go kits. They are also moving ahead with tying into the BCWARN network.

### Club Insurance

Discussion on motion for \$5 voluntary levy to help offset the extraordinary expense of the insurance costs. An additional benefit was mentioned by Fred VE7IO with regard to outgoing QSL bureau. As we are an affiliated club this is also included with our membership.

**Motion:** A Voluntary \$5 levy per member apply to the club members to help defray this extraordinary insurance cost. Made by Johnny VE7JGR and was seconded by Fred VE7IO. Carried.

### CW Class

Jinty VA7JMR mentioned we have a good group going through the alphabet.

### Ham Class

Starting Feb 24. We have 13 or 14 expressing interest but only have 8 paid at this time. Location will be #9 Fire Hall in Surrey. See website for location details.

### Gaming Grant

A projector has now been purchased. This will be used for the ham class. We are also looking at tent for field day. A 16x20 tent. Kelvin VA7KPH presented on this. A local manufacture has been approached. It has an aluminum frame with 1" 3/4 tubing. Water-proof canvas over frame. Windows in for ventilation. 4x6 windows x4 with a door at both ends. 4 - 3" reinforced round holes for coax. Small awning at one end. Bottom aluminum frame. No floor, which will be purchased separately. See Northwest Shelters.com. The total price is \$3225.60 including HST. This also includes carrying case/bag.

Good progress moving the Repeaters to the new proposed hi-rise tower. Antennas and repeater equipment will be next to purchase.

### Swap Meet

SARC will have a table at the Burnaby Swap meet. Members can put items on the table to sell. It will cost \$6 entry fee.

### Club Member Profile

We are looking for creative writer to create member profiles for the Communicator. Susan VE7IIE has volunteered to do this.

### Volunteers Needed

Upcoming events require volunteers. The three main events are: Fox Hunt May 14 (see Anton VE7SSD), Field Day and the Flea Market in summer (please see John VA7XB about these).

### Website

A website facelift is underway. On Jan 27 Hui VE7YXG, Susan VE7IIE, Kelvin VA7KPH and Chris VA7CMZ had a meeting. Currently they are working on the website redesign. Stay tuned.

### RAC Report

Not available tonight.

### Evening Presentations

DVAP demo by Bill Little VA7XBL. This is a D-Star dongle to join the DSTAR network.

Amel VA7KBA and Les VA7OM presented on the 15<sup>th</sup> World ARDF Championship. See <http://www.ardf2010.com> More info on ARDF [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amateur\\_radio\\_direction\\_finding](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amateur_radio_direction_finding). This is the first time Canada participated at the world Stage ARDF competition.

The meeting concluded at 9:10 pm.

## SEPARS Report

Fred Orsetti VE7IO



### Monthly exercise with Langley

A successful exercise was held with Langley on Saturday, January 22nd where messages were handled using voice, AirMail and D-Rats modes. With each exercise the flow of messages improves as does the operation of the radio room.

For the February exercise we are planning a two shift format starting at 10:00a.m. and finishing at 2:00p.m. with a shift change at 12:00 noon.

### Monthly Emergency Management BC check-ins

Each month the PREOC tests communications around the region by having all EOC's check-in on voice and data using repeaters and simplex. The test takes place on the third Wednesday of each month and January was the first test. SEPAR checked in using voice and data with good success. The next test is February 16th.

### School workshop

SEPARS held a workshop with the students at Don Christian Elementary on Wednesday February 2nd. As in previous workshops we used the five post format and this worked well. This workshop was actually two workshops one in the morning with one class and one in the afternoon with a second class. As with previous workshops the highlights were the CW and IRLP posts. We have two more school workshops plus a library workshop coming up. With each workshop we continue to find areas that need to be improved. Fortunately we have had a very good response from SEPARS volunteers.

### The great BC Shake Out

We opened the radio room on January 26 at 10:00a.m. local time to take check-ins from around the Metro area on both the SARC repeater 147.360+ and 146.550 simplex. The exercise was to see if we could, on short notice, get a good response from local radio amateurs. The results were very good, thirty-five check-ins on the repeater and twelve check-ins on simplex.

### Monthly workshops

The January workshop agenda was a hands on training with the Grab and Go kits. The focus was on deploying the kits and getting the radios on the air. The February workshop agenda is to practice programming the IC 2820 radios using the memories and entering a frequency which is not in memory.

### Weekly net

Check-ins to the weekly net are holding around 12 to 13 and we are seeing more people getting involved with the practice message portion on 146.550 simplex. We are now tracking check-ins and message handling and this information will be included in the overall training data base.

### WHY NOT CONSIDER TAKING A NET CONTROL POSITION

### Gaming fund expenditures

1. Vests - the order has been placed and payment made so we expect to see some vests around the end of February or early March.
2. BCWARN - Drew, VA7DRW, has put together a business plan for SEPARS and BCWARN and this will be submitted to Dan Barnscher before the end of February. The plan includes a 2.4 and/or 5.8 GHz repeater at the Concord Pacific site. More testing on a path from the EOC is required.
3. Training - the ICS 200 course is laid on for February 19 and 20 and we have 12 registered at this time.
4. Hi Q antennas - we must do more testing with the HI Q antennas for the Grab and Go Kits before we proceed with any further orders. Concerns raised by Don Hamilton and John Brodie regarding the transportation and performance of this type of antenna have to be addressed.
5. 220 MHz radios - Burnaby Radio has 4 220 MHz radios and antennas for us now and they will be picked up before the end of February. Installation at the radio room is very simple however space in the Grab and Go kit will have to be found to mount the 220 MHz radio.

We are still hopeful that we will be able to free up some funds to purchase a trailer.

### SARC EXECUTIVE FOR 2010-2011

#### PRESIDENT

John Brodie VA7XB

#### VICE PRESIDENT

Don Hamilton VA7GL

#### SECRETARY

Gordon Kirk VE7GRK

#### TREASURER

Scott Hawrelak VE7HA

#### WEB MASTER

Hui Yee VE7YXG

#### COMMUNICATOR EDITOR

John Schouten VE7TI

#### DIRECTORS

Bill Gipps VE7XS

Kelvin Hall VA7KPH

Fred Orsetti VE7IO

John Schouten VE7TI

Gary Skett VE7AS

Chris Zetner VA7CMZ





## BASIC AMATEUR RADIO LICENSING CLASSES

**\*\*\*\*Start Date Changed to Feb. 24, 2011\*\*\*\***

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN USING RADIO FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE?  
WANT TO BUILD RADIO EQUIPMENT AND ANTENNAS OR  
COMMUNICATE BY HAM RADIO WITH OTHERS ACROSS THE GLOBE OR  
USE ORBITING SATELLITES TO RELAY RADIO SIGNALS?  
YOU CAN DO ALL OF THESE THINGS AND MORE

**THE COURSE, INCLUDING INDUSTRY CANADA EXAM, WILL BE GIVEN  
IN SURREY OVER 9 WEEKS EVERY THURSDAY EVENING  
FEB. 24 TO APRIL 21 FROM 6:30 TO 9:30 PM  
A BEGINNER'S SEMINAR WILL FOLLOW - TBA**

No. 9 Firehall  
14901 64 Avenue, Surrey  
(north side of 64<sup>th</sup> Ave. at the railway crossing)

COURSE FEE: \$120, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE – includes textbook

Cheques payable to Surrey ARC

Send to: 12160 Boundary Dr. S., Surrey, BC V3X2B7

Register for course at: [ve7as@rac.ca](mailto:ve7as@rac.ca)

## News You Can Use

### Rechargeable Battery Care Chart

Rechargeable batteries are commonplace in our everyday lives, particularly so as we are Amateur radio operators who power our equipment almost exclusively with these devices. Below is a battery care chart describing the recommended charging and discharging procedures for various battery chemistries, and advice on methods to prolong their life.

|                      | Nickel-cadmium<br>(NiCd)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Nickel-metal-hydride<br>(NiMH)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Lithium-ion<br>(Li-ion)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Lead-acid<br>(Sealed or flooded)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Used in</b>       | Two-way radios, power tools, medical.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Similar application as NiCd; higher density.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Cell phones, laptops, video cameras.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Motorcycles, cars, wheel-chairs, UPS.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Charging</b>      | Do run the battery fully down once per month; try to use up all energy before charging.<br>Do not leave battery in charger for more than 2 days because of memory.<br>Avoid getting battery too hot during charge.<br>Charge methods: Constant current, followed by trickle charge when full. Fast-charge preferred over slow charge.<br>Slow charge = 16h<br>Rapid charge = 3h<br>Fast charge = 1h+ | Do run the battery fully down once every 3 months. Over-cycling is not advised.<br>Do not leave battery in charger for more than 2 days because of memory.<br>Avoid getting battery too hot during charge.<br>Charge methods: Constant current, followed by trickle charge when full. Slow charge not recommended.<br>Battery will get warm towards full charge.<br>Rapid charge = 3h<br>Fast charge = 1h+ | Do charge the battery often. The battery lasts longer with partial rather than full discharges.<br>Do not use if pack gets hot during charge. Check also charger.<br>Charge methods: Constant voltage to 4.20V/cell (typical). No trickle-charge when full. Li-ion may remain in the charger (no memory).<br>Battery must remain cool. No fast-charge possible.<br>Rapid charge = 3h | Do charge the battery immediately after use. Lead-acid must always be kept in a charged condition. The battery lasts longer with partial rather than full discharges. Over-cycling is not advised.<br>Charge methods: Constant voltage to 2.40V/cell (typical), followed by float held at 2.25V/cell.<br>Battery must remain cool. Fast charge not possible; can remain on float charge.<br>Slow charge = 14h<br>Rapid charge = 10h |
| <b>Discharging</b>   | Full cycle does not harm NiCd.<br><i>NiCd is one of the most hardy and durable chemistries.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Avoid too many full cycles because of wear. Use 80% depth-of-discharge.<br><i>NiMH has higher energy density than NiCd at the expense of shorter cycle life.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Avoid full cycle because of wear. 80% depth-of-discharge recommended. Re-charge more often. Avoid full discharge. Low voltage may cut off safety circuit                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Avoid full cycle because of wear. Use 80% depth-of-discharge. Recharge more often or use larger battery.<br><i>Low energy density limits lead-acid to wheeled applications</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Service needs</b> | Discharge to 1V/cell every 1 to 2 months to prevent memory.<br>Do not discharge before each charge.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Discharge to 1V/cell every 3 months to prevent memory.<br>Do not discharge before each charge                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | No maintenance needed. Loses capacity due to aging whether used or not.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Apply topping charge every 6 months. Occasional discharge/charge may improve performance.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Storage</b>       | Best to store at 40% charge in a cool place. Open terminal voltage cannot determine state-of-charge. 5 years and longer storage possible. Prime battery if stored longer than 6 months.                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Store at 40% charge in a cool place. Open terminal voltage cannot determine state-of-charge. Prime battery if stored longer than 6 months.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Store at 40% charge in a cool place (40% state-of-charge reads 3.75-3.80V/cell at open terminal).<br>Do not store at full charge and at warm temperatures because of accelerated aging.                                                                                                                                                                                              | Store always at a full state-of-charge. Do not store below 2.10V/cell; apply topping charge every 6 months.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Disposal</b>      | Do not dispose; contains toxic metals; must be recycled.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Should be recycled. Low volume household NiMH may be disposed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Should be recycled. Low volume household Li-ion may be disposed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Do not dispose; must be recycled.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

## QRM

News Clips

**DXers! Contesters!** Don't miss our 62nd annual International DX Convention April 15-16-17, 2011 in Visalia, California. Enjoy DXpedition presentations - Technical sessions - Vendor exhibits - Contest Academy - Ladies Tour - Golf Tournament - Saturday Banquet - Over \$25,000 in raffle prizes - and meet DXers who travel from around the world to this premier DX event. Early registration closes on March 19th, so register today at <http://www.dxconvention.org/>

### Western Canada's Largest Amateur Radio Swap Meet

- Recycle your radio treasures
- Two rooms, 50 tables
- Door prizes & Raffle tickets
- Commercial Exhibits
- QSL Bureau & RAC

Presented by:

**Burnaby Amateur Radio Club**

- <http://www.ve7bar.org/content/swap-meet>
- or Phone: Lou, VE7CQE (604) 291-1569

### Why ham radio endures in a world of tweets

In an interesting article appearing on the 'Wired' website this week, David Rowan looks at amateur radio and explains 'Why ham radio endures in a world of tweets'.

Rowan starts his article: Somehow it makes little sense that amateur 'ham' radio continues to thrive in the age of Twitter, Facebook and iPhones.

Yet the century-old communications technology - which demands such commitment that you must generally pass an exam to receive a licence - currently attracts around 350,000 practitioners in Europe, and a further 700,000 in the United States, some 60 per cent more than 30 years ago.

What is it about a simple microphone, a transmitter-receiver and the seductive freedom of the open radio spectrum that's turned a low-tech anachronism into an enduring and deeply engaging global hobby?

You can read the full article Why ham radio endures in a world of tweets at:

<http://www.wired.co.uk/news/archive/2011-02/03/why-ham-radio-endures>

## Radio-Active

Joe Walsh WB6ACU



A ham since 1961, Joe Walsh got into Amateur Radio in 1960, shortly after moving to New York. He says that becoming a radio amateur was a pivotal point in his life.

Interest grew out of a desire to know how his electric guitar and amp worked. Eventually he was able to fix and modify his guitars to get some of the effects that made him

famous as a member of the 70's group 'The Eagles'. In a radio interview Joe says he used Morse code in some of his recordings because he 'liked the sound and rhythm' and included Morse messages in his albums on two occasions: once on the Barnstorm album, and later on Songs For A Dying Planet.

He now holds an Extra Class license and was bitten by the contest bug during a visit to the station of Ali Al-Futtaim, A61AJ, in the United Arab Emirates. "There were 50 guys at a time calling me, and before I knew it, I looked up and three hours had passed and I'd been logging 350 QSOs an hour," he recalled. "Then I realized what [contesting] was all about. It was like, 'Wow!' You just have to do it to understand how much fun it is."



## 'Net' Working

### Internet Resources for Hams



Identity theft is growing into a major law enforcement problem in this age of connectivity. Individuals often share information on social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, MSN, Yahoo and Google Messenger that should not be openly available -

but is. Facebook in fact generates revenue by selling your personal data to advertisers to target ads to you. It is difficult if not impossible to completely isolate your personal data from the Internet as most of us use it to access various accounts, web shop, and access information databases.

The unfortunate reality is that law enforcement does not have the resources to investigate every instance of identity theft and often the damage is already done and irrevocable with significant inconvenience, and often financial loss to the victim. The onus is therefore on the individual to release as little personal information about themselves as possible on the Internet, certainly on unencrypted public sites. Always look for <https> rather than <http> in the address bar and a look for a lock symbol on the page - see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HTTP\\_Secure](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HTTP_Secure) for further information.

Never provide account numbers, personal ID data, your birth date, mother's maiden name, etc. over an unencrypted connection. On an encrypted connection only provide this data if it is required AND it is a trusted site such as a government agency. On all other sites substitute other data such as a phony birth date. A lot of people think I was born on January 1<sup>st</sup> and my mother's maiden name is Smith. It is also a good idea to use a valid but non-identifiable email address for sites that insist on sending you back a confirmation email. One of the best options for this is Google Mail as they offer free email accessible via the web or your email client from anywhere and it is secure, one of the few such services that encrypts email - note the <https> in their web address.

Be particularly careful about your SIN and driver's license. They are an important key to your identity, especially in credit reports and computer databases. Don't give your credit card number on the telephone, by electronic mail, or to a voice mailbox, unless you know the person with whom you're communicating or you initiated the communication yourself, and you know that the communication channel is secure. Choose difficult 'strong' passwords, preferably consisting of a combination of letters, numbers and, if permitted, punctuation marks - *not* your mother's maiden name. Substituting numbers for letters or vice versa usually assists in memorizing your password. For example for 'jones' you could substitute 'j0n35'. Try to use different passwords for your critical accounts. Memorize them, and change them

frequently. Don't write them down and leave them in your wallet, or some equally obvious place. Free password encryption software such as KeePass ([www.keepass.com](http://www.keepass.com)) is preferable to a password text file on your computer or in your wallet.

Don't reply to email notifying you that a password has expired or your account requires an update. Generate a new email to the address on your statement or call to verify that it is required. Various schemes can make an email look very authentic and appear to originate from a legitimate source.

*"I don't need to worry about identity theft because nobody wants to be me." - Jay London*

As Amateur Radio operators there is one additional step you can take. Industry Canada and any other government body is required by federal and provincial privacy laws to suppress your personal information, but you have to request them to do so. Doing this is as simple as sending an email to [spectrum.amateur@ic.gc.ca](mailto:spectrum.amateur@ic.gc.ca) to ask that your personal data not appear on public websites or their callbook. RAC, QRZ and all other ham call lookup services all access this information, so the one email will block all but your name, callsign and license class. The drawback is lookups for direct QSL card exchanges however, this can be managed by using a QSL bureau or, as I do, updating QRZ manually every three months with my mailing address.

Under the authority of a radio license, Canadian amateurs are currently permitted to have three different radio installations at different locations. The practice of substituting a business, another individual's or false address technically contravenes the Amateur Radio Regulations, unless the license holder has a station located at that address. The Amateur Radio Operator Certificate should be retained at the address notified to Industry Canada.

There are three excellent websites that offer a wealth of additional information about identity theft. One is Canadian and the other two are based in the US but the information and recommendations apply north of the border as well.

[http://www.priv.gc.ca/fs-fi/02\\_05\\_d\\_10\\_e.cfm](http://www.priv.gc.ca/fs-fi/02_05_d_10_e.cfm)

<http://www.onguardonline.gov/>

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft/>

The bottom line... the less information you publish, the more secure you are from identity theft.

- John Schouten, VE7TI



## Application Notes

Gary Skett VE7AS

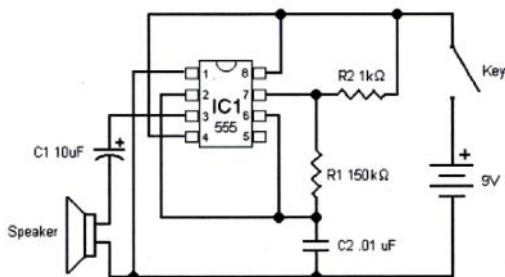


I am encouraged by the numbers of new Hams who want to take on one of the most challenging aspects of the hobby - learning the Morse code. It is a journey lasting months of dedicated practice and many hours of brain-numbing QSO's with like-minded radio operators who have honed their skill of taking conversation down from 120-200 spoken words-per-minute [for the average North American] to a walking pace of 18-22 wpm using the 'binary' language of dits and dahs... Amazing that the human brain is capable of comprehending [and processing] speech at an amazing 600 words per minute and yet we struggle to print the letter "A" at 12 wpm using nothing more complex than a dit and a dah [at a 400Hz. audio tone] over radio or a tone generator... Hams are truly awesome beings...

Well, in order for us to achieve such wonders, one needs a Morse code key and a simple circuit to make that music. And here it is!

### Parts list:

IC1- 555 timer  
R1 - 150k  
R2 - 1K  
C1 - 10 uF electrolytic  
C2 - .01 uF ceramic disc  
Speaker  
9V battery clip

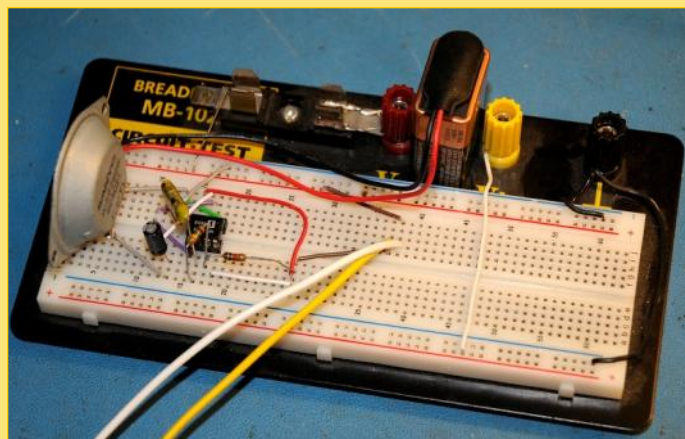


One of the most versatile IC's man has ever made... short of the i7 Core processor... the 555 timer IC. This simple circuit will provide the Padawan CW learner a tone generator of sufficient volume and tonal quality to supply a year or two of code practice between battery changes.

By changing either C2 or R1 with a variable component, the tone and volume can be 'tuned' to the owner's sensitive ear.

My prototype was put together on in a few minutes and the white and yellow wires attached to a standard

straight code key. Tone and volume with the fixed components were pleasant enough for hours and hours and hours of enjoyable practice. The whole oscillator could probably be soldered on a 1" square PCB mounted on the back of a 2" speaker or the heavy base of your straight key. Cost... well I had all the parts, so nothing for me... but I imagine the 9v battery is the most expensive part to this circuit. Depending where you buy your IC's and sundry components this project should not cost you more than \$5 plus HST... and gas... and half a day shopping around... and time... times two when you blow the IC by reversing the battery connections... oops!



Sorry, doesn't work with lambic paddles... you need a lot more IC's - smart ones too - to make the dits and dahs come out of the speaker. Maybe a circuit for that next time... HAVE FUN WITH CW!

## Communications Academy 2011

# SAVE THE DATE!

A Training Workshop for  
Volunteer Emergency  
Communicators  
South Seattle Community  
College—Seattle, WA.  
[www.CommAcademy.org](http://www.CommAcademy.org)

**April 16-17, 2011**

Keynote Presentations  
40 hours of classes  
& workshops  
Exhibitors & Vendors  
Communication Van displays  
Door & Raffle Prizes



COMMUNICATIONS ACADEMY

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

CONTINUING EDUCATION



## Snapshots

February SARC Presentation

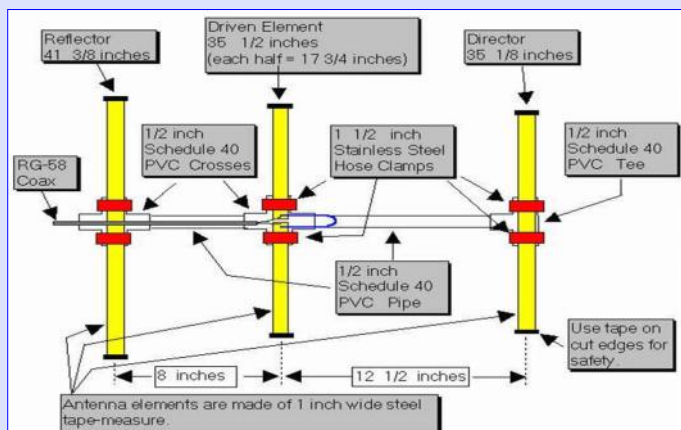


The February SARC meeting featured a presentation on the 15th World Amateur Radio Direction Finding championships. Canada was represented by two local hams, Amel VA7KBA and Les VA7OM (above). The March Communicator will feature an article about this event.

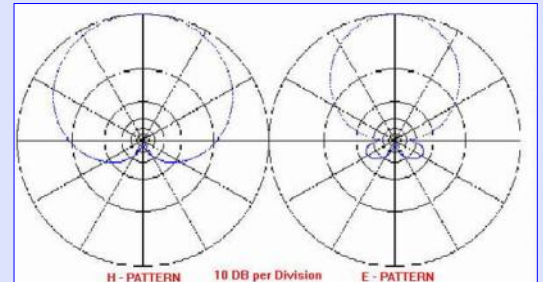
## A Foxhunt Antenna

John Brodie VA7XB

Get ready for the May 14<sup>th</sup> foxhunt by constructing a simple directional antenna for 2 m. The WB2HOL tape measure beam is completely described at [http://theleggios.net/wb2hol/projects/rdf/tape\\_bm.htm](http://theleggios.net/wb2hol/projects/rdf/tape_bm.htm) and the design is shown below.



This beam has been widely used on Fox-Hunts, on mountain tops, at local public service events, outdoors, indoors in attics, just about everywhere. The SWR is typically very close to 1:1 once adjusted. Front to back performance is exactly as predicted. The null in the rear of the pattern is perfect for transmitter hunts. The flexible elements can take a lot of abuse which makes it ideal for tracking a fox through bush. Club members can assist with construction for any member who needs access to a shop and tools. Cost of construction should be under \$10. The only other thing you will need to make it work is a 2m radio which can be held independently or strapped to the handle of the beam. We will have a demo at the March meeting.



## SARC President's Comments

John Brodie VA7XB



**Volunteers Required!** As if all the repeater work wasn't sufficient challenge to our resources, we have the usual series of annual events for fun and (we hope) profit that will require planning. This means we need volunteers with good ideas to help with the advance work, in addition to backup help to carry out the many tasks during the events themselves. Specifically, we need to fill out the volunteer roster for the following events:

**Ham classes:** Starting Feb. 24th for 9 weeks. Instructor Gary VE7AS would like the help of some classroom assistants on Thursday nights.

**Fox Hunt:** On May 14th. Organizer Anton VE7SSD will be assisted by Amel VA7KBA to set up the actual hunt, but a committee needs to be assembled to organize the BBQ afterwards. See further information below.

**Field Day:** The weekend of June 24-26 is the premier event of the year. Planning has already started and if you have some experience or would like to learn, please get involved.

**Flea Market:** Setup is on Saturday August 20 with the flea market on Sunday Aug. 21st. This event, the first ever for SARC and LARA, was a big winner last year but we need to build on our success for 2011. With summer vacations, it is often difficult to get help at this time of year.

Please email [va7xb@rac.ca](mailto:va7xb@rac.ca) and let me know how you can help. A fuller roster of enthusiastic volunteers would make the jobs so much easier and more fun. The

more experienced volunteers are needed to lead the planning effort, and the newer and less-experienced members can learn under their direction.

**March Meeting:** The next meeting of SARC is on Wednesday, March 9th, the meeting will host Dan Renaud VE7ACV, a fully accredited safety inspector and instructor, who will be giving a 1 hour presentation on fall protection awareness, including types of fall protection systems, equipment devices and their uses, climbing techniques, safe anchorages, 100% tie off as well as fall protection legislation - yes you do need to know these even for your own tower. With liability on everyone's mind these days, we need to be professional when undertaking potentially dangerous activities such as raising a tower, climbing it or taking down an old one, so that we don't cause property damage or endanger our own lives or those of others. As this is a presentation with wide-spread interest, we will be inviting other clubs to attend. Please tell your friends!

**Website Facelift:** An enthusiastic and knowledgeable team has commenced work on SARC's website make-over led by Hiu VE7YXG, our long-standing website manager, assisted by professional website designers Susan Eshelman VE7IIE and Kelvin VA7KPH.

Look for some exciting changes in the look and feel of the website over the next few weeks or months. Once the new version is complete it will be put up for member comments before it replaces the current site.

## DOWN THE LOG...

### SARC Monthly Meetings

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday (Sept-Jun)  
1900 hrs local at PEP PREOC,  
14275 96th Avenue, Surrey, BC

### Weekly Club Breakfast

Friday at 0830 local  
ABC Country Restaurant located  
at 600 - 7380 King George Blvd.  
Surrey

### SARC Net

Tuesday at 2000 local  
on 147.360 MHz (+) Tone=110.9

### SEPARS Net

Tuesday at 19:30 local  
on 147.360 MHz (+) Tone=110.9

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### Announcements & News

**Next SARC Meeting**  
March 9th, features Dan Renaud  
on tower safety and fall  
protection. See details at left.

**SEPARS Monthly Workshop**  
Third Thursday, 7 to 9:30pm  
Rm. 214, 13569 76th Ave.

**Fox Hunt**  
May 14th. Mark your calendar,  
Anton VE7SSD is the contact.  
Details to follow.

**Basic Amateur Licensing Class**  
Starts on Thursday, Feb 24th for  
9 weeks at No. 9 Firehall, 14901  
64 Avenue, Surrey \$120

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### On the Web [ve7sar.net](http://ve7sar.net)

Between newsletters, watch  
your e-mail for announcements  
of events, monthly meetings and  
training opportunities. These  
announcements may also be  
found on our web page.



**SARC** hosts an Amateur Radio net each Tuesday evening at 8 PM. Please tune in to the VE7RSC repeater at 147.360 MHz (+600 KHz) Tone=110.9, also accessible on IRLP node 1980 and Echolink node 496228. On UHF we operate a repeater on 443.775MHz (+5Mhz) Tone=110.9 and IRPL node 1463. Coming soon, a repeater at 224.000MHz (-1.6MHz).

### VIA THE WEB

[www.ve7sar.net](http://www.ve7sar.net)

Webmaster Hiu Yee  
VE7YXG

Editor: John Schouten  
[ve7ti@rac.ca](mailto:ve7ti@rac.ca)

### TELEPHONE & ADDRESS

(604) 591-1825

[va7xb@rac.ca](mailto:va7xb@rac.ca)

12160 Boundary Drive S.  
Surrey BC V3X 2B7

CONTACT